

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Liana Fenton

Paul Mankofsky

William O'Connell

Member Absent:

Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Vice-Chairman

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

Shawn Brown, Town Administrator

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Michelle Fonseca, Michael Mancieri, Andrew Longo, Linda Beaupre, and Donna Chelf.

Special Education - Mrs. Rachel Santa reported on the Special Education program.

This school year, there are 38 Middletown students placed in out-of-district placements by Individual Education Plan Teams.

The total cost of Special Education for the four towns (Middletown, Portsmouth, Tiverton, and Little Compton) this year was \$18 million.

Athletic Budget – Mrs. Kraeger reported on the Athletic Budget in the absence of the Athletic Director. In past years, data trends have been studied to determine the viability of each sport. Challenges that will be faced include football officials begin assigned by RIIL, which will be at an increased rate, the mandatory attendance of an Athletic Trainer at all football, soccer, and hockey games, and the requirement to have three officials at lacrosse games instead of two.

Suggestions for the department include the use of vans instead of busses for smaller teams. This will be more cost efficient. Other suggestions include selling old uniform jerseys to alumni, charging an admission at lacrosse games, and exploring a coop option for wrestling, hockey, boys' and girls' cross country, and gymnastics. RIIL has changed the coop guidelines beginning in 2014-15.

Possible reductions in sports will be considered based on funding and participation rate.

Capital Improvement – The dishwasher at Gaudet School is original to the building and is very costly to repair. Other items discussed were the high school and Gaudet school roof replacement, HVAC, blinds, and security card system.

Town Administrator, Shawn Brown, suggested accelerating the purchase of the vans. He suggested purchasing one in 2015 and one in 2016. It was requested not to

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include the kitchen equipment in the Unfunded category, but instead to look into a lease purchase for kitchen equipment.

Several motions were attempted regarding the CIP, but none were voted on.

Mr. Mankofsky wants to make it clear that we are not approving any funds for exploratory design or future bonds at this time.

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the CIP plan, as amended, to accelerate the purchase of vehicle in 2015 and 2016 and fund through lease the Gaudet kitchen equipment. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger said that we are in the 4th year of losing State Aid, and there is still one year left in the teacher, teacher assistant, and

custodial contracts. If we fail to plan, we plan to fail. We need to stop playing to the percent and plan for what our student's need to improve achievement.

Ms. Pellerin said that revenues come from tax appropriation, State Aid and Federal Aid, and appropriations from fund balances. The major funding stream is tax appropriations. 95% of the budget is local tax appropriation. We are in the 4th year of funding formula reduction. The actuals are contractual increases, retirements, and medical expenses. For professional development the substitutes are paid for by grants.

Mrs. Spengler said that revenue is the problem. Expenditures are cut as far as we can. Middletown has a transient population.

Mrs. Spengler recommends coming back with a 3.75% budget and asking for a list of what the implications are. A 0% budget is not an option.

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Paul Mankofsky. To prepare a 2% budget. MOTION FAILS.

YAY – William O'Connell NAY – Liana Fenton

Paul Mankofsky Theresa Spengler

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To prepare a 3.75% budget for the March 5th meeting, with a list of how it will impact students. MOTION FAILS.

YAY – Liana Fenton NAY – William O’Connell
Theresa Spengler Paul Mankofsky

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To prepare a 3% and a 3.75% budget. MOTION PASSED 3 TO 1.

YAY – Liana Fenton NAY – Paul Mankofsky
Theresa Spengler
William O’Connell

The next budget meeting will be held on March 5th

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MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell. To close the Budget Workshop at 6:55 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. All School Committee members were present except for Mrs. DiPalma Simeone. Administrative staff members present were Stephen Ponte,

Andrew Longo, Michelle Fonseca, Michael Mancieri, Linda Beaupre, and Donna Chelf.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Gaudet Middle School Soccer”

Mr. Christos Agorous spoke about the Gaudet Middle School Soccer Program. Mr. Agorous addressed the committee five years ago (May 2009) asking for soccer to be a club sport. He would like to transition this club over three years to the Middletown Public Schools. There have been an average of 40 students per year. RIPCOA is the middle school league. There are 22 schools in RIPCOA, 19 of them are fully funded by the school department. They are currently a non-profit organization who hold a lot of fundraisers. The current cost is \$5-6K annually for 2 teams. They currently bus to all off-island games. For local games parent volunteers drive to games.

This would be take place in three phases. For Phase 1 (Fall 2014), the cost to Middletown Public Schools would be \$0. The group would like to join RIPCOA at this time. Busses and referees would be scheduled by Middletown and RIPCOA will schedule the games.

For Phase 2 (Fall 2015), the cost to the Middletown Public Schools would be \$6,100. The coaches and referees would be funded by Middletown.

For Phase 3 (Fall 2016 and beyond), the cost to Middletown Public

Schools would be \$11,500. Coaches would be selected and appointed by Middletown. Bussing and referees would be covered by Middletown Public Schools. Equipment and uniforms would be funded by Middletown Public Schools and the MHS Boosters.

This is a feeder program for the high school and coaches work closely with the high school coaches.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Student Awards – no student awards for February 27, 2014.**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- No “Student Activities” for February 27, 2014.**

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INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Planetarium Flyer**
- The Wave**

- MHS Humanities Department Newsletter
- Moon Rocks press release
- Health and Nutrition Committee minutes

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for February 27, 2014.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- *Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2014 Budget Workshop
- Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2014 Budget Workshop and School Committee Meeting
- Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2014 Executive Session
- Approval of the following vouchers
- Approval of Superintendent’s Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 28, 2014

Caitlin Briggs After-School Intervention Teacher, Aquidneck School
Brittney Schuchmann After-School Intervention Teacher, Aquidneck School

Sara Topazio After-School Intervention Teacher, Aquidneck School
Katelyn Zerba After-School Intervention Teacher, Aquidneck School

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Danielle Laurie After-School Intervention Teacher, Aquidneck School
(Job Share)

Lori Call After-School Intervention Teacher, Aquidneck School (Job Share)

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 27, 2014

Rose Thomas 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 14, 2014

Charles Russ February and April Vacation Camp Site Manager

SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 17, 2014

Chuck Paiva Varsity Baseball Coach

Harry Eng Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach

Anthony Geer 6th/7th/8th Grade Baseball Coach

Robin Ramey Varsity Softball Coach

Christine Elliott Assistant Varsity Softball Coach

Jesse Alvanas Junior Varsity Softball Coach

Keith Holubesco 6/7th/8th Grade Softball Coach

Richard Formica Varsity Boys' Lacrosse Coach

Robb Weaver Assistant Varsity Boys' Lacrosse Coach

Kristin Seyster Varsity Boys'/Girls' Outdoor Track Coach

Catherine Butler Assistant Varsity Boys' Outdoor Track Coach

Chelsea Seyster Assistant Varsity Girls' Outdoor Track Coach

Lisa O'Brien Varsity Golf Coach

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 24, 2014

Rhoda Ackerman Bus Monitor

Kelly Fincher Bus Monitor

RESIGNATION AS OF JANUARY 31, 2014

Roberta Settle Bus Monitor

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Deborah Anthony Consumer Science, J.H. Gaudet School

Nancy Ashmore Speech Language Pathologist

Sharon Brown Grade 5 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

Doria Forgue District/School Administrative Support Personnel (217 Days)

Denise Krzyzek Grade 5 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

Carol Lopes Grade 6 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

David Pritchard Science Teacher, Middletown High School

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APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF ARTICLE XIV, C OPTION #1 FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

Jillian Kitson Social Studies Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Erica Bulk Grade 5 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

From January 27, 2014 for approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

Beverlee Lavallee Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School

From February 12, 2014 for 6 weeks.

ACTION ITEMS

REDUCTION IN FORCE

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Paul Mankofsky. That the Superintendent's Report be accepted and adopted and the necessary letters sent out. Unanimous vote. SEE ATTACHED

WAIVER FOR THE STATE ASSESSMENT GRADUATION REQUIREMENT WAIVER (2nd READING)

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve the Waiver for the State Assessment Graduation Requirement Waiver Policy, 2nd Reading. MOTION PASSED 3 TO 1.

YAY – Theresa Spengler NAY – Paul Mankofsky

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Mr. Mankofsky is concerned that this is “watering down” the policy. Andrew Longo, Middletown High School Assistant Principal, said it is a requirement that each district has a waiver policy.

CONCUSSION POLICY (2nd READING)

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve the concussion policy, 2nd Reading.

Mr. Mankofsky said that he is uncomfortable with the committee deciding that a student has to go through a screening to be able to play a sport. He feels it goes beyond the rights of the School Committee.

Mrs. Spengler said that if we do an opt-out clause, we would need legal advice.

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There was discussion about the wording of what type of medical professional a student needs to see before returning to the activity. The policy currently states that a student "will not be permitted to return to play in any physical contact activities without being cleared by the expressed written consent of a health-care professional". The wording was changed to read "by the expressed written consent of a licensed physician". Mr. Mankofsky does not want to accept the liability of having a student return without seeing a physician.

AMENDED MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. To

change the wording of the policy to read “by the expressed written consent of a licensed physician”. Unanimous vote.

GAUDET SCHOOL SOCCER

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell. That the School Committee approve the plan to phase in the Gaudet Soccer Club as a school funded sport. Unanimous vote.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 13-14-05. Unanimous vote.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH EBCAP AND COZ

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell. That the School Committee approve the partnership agreement with EBCAP and COZ. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

- COZ – Once the partnership is approved, meetings with EBCAP will continue.**

- **PLANETARIUM – Moon Rock Nights** has been held. There has been great coverage in the Newport Daily News.
- **AP PROGRAM –** This group would like to do a site visit at Middletown High School.
- **FIELDING NAIR –** Mrs. Kraeger and Mr. Brown will be working on an agenda for meetings in March. Property and facility tours will be taking place.
- **SHARED SERVICES –** The details need to be worked out. A business plan is being developed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **NECAP SCORES –** There are concerns with scores Gaudet School. There has been significant growth at Middletown High School. Increase to 90's % in reading. 10% increase in math. At top of schools for writing. We are far ahead of the State. 55%

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in writing and 35% in math reading 81%for State. The elementary schools have seen improvement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- **CURRICULUM** – Work on grades 7-8 math units began today.
- **FINANCIAL** – Updated at Budget Workshop.
- **FACILITIES** – At the next meeting, Mr. Collins will report on what the expenses were due to the cold winter.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- Mrs. Fenton attended the unified high school meeting on Monday. She also attended educational workforce meeting. They continue to work with STEM career pathways.
- Mrs. Spengler also attended the unified high school meeting. A lot of work still needs to happen and a lot of questions need to be answered.
- Mr. O'Connell also attended the unified high school meeting.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:55 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk